



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

September 2005

VENABLE LLP  
P.O. BOX 34385  
WASHINGTON, DC 20045-9998

SEP 07 2005

In re Application of:  
JOHN SOHL ET AL.  
Serial No.: 10/666,547  
Filed: 22 September 2003  
Docket: 36507-193186

:  
: DECISION ON PETITION TO  
: MAKE SPECIAL UNDER 37  
: C.F.R. § 1.102(c)  
: [ENVIRONMENT]

This is a decision on the petition filed on May 11, 2005, to make the above-identified application special as benefiting environmental quality under the procedure set forth in MPEP § 708.02(V) in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(c).

The petition to make the application special is **DISMISSED**.

In support of the petition, petition provides a statement by the attorney/agent registered to practice stating that use of the invention allows (1) enhancement of an environmental quality by more accurately and rapidly measuring the extent of environmental damage

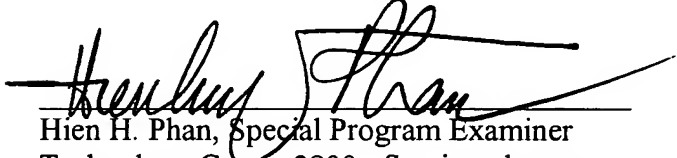
For accelerated examination under MPEP § 708.02(V) in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(c), a satisfactory statement explaining how the invention contributes to the restoration or maintenance of one of the basic life-sustaining natural elements, i.e.; air, water, or soil.

Section V is limited to “restoration or maintenance”; improved detection of contamination is not a direct restoration or positive maintenance of air, water, or soil. While most improvements in sensors may be considered as related to restoration or maintenance of air, water, or soil, such improvements are only tangential to “restoration or maintenance.” Advanced prosecution under section V is a commitment by the Office to devote extra resources to expedite the examination of inventions related to promising technology, and is reserved for inventions that contribute to the restoration or maintenance of the elements. Inventions having only a tangential relationship to the restoration or maintenance of the elements will not, in order preserve the limited resources of the Office, be treated as special.

For the above-mentioned reasons, the petition is dismissed. The application will therefore be taken up by the examiner for action in its regular turn.

Any request for reconsideration of this decision must be submitted within 2 (two) months of the date of this decision in order to be considered timely.

Any inquiry regarding this decision should be directed to Hien H. Phan, Special Program Examiner, at (571) 272-1606.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hien H. Phan', is written over a horizontal line.

Hien H. Phan, Special Program Examiner  
Technology Center 2800 - Semiconductors,  
Electrical & Optical Systems & Components